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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/830,008	04/23/2004	Kei Takahashi	006514.00002	7662
22907	7590	06/14/2005	EXAMINER	
BANNER & WITCOFF			NGUYEN, KHIEM M	
1001 G STREET N W				
SUITE 1100			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
WASHINGTON, DC 20001			2839	

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/830,008	TAKAHASHI, KEI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Khiem Nguyen	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 5, at line 2, should the term --card-- be inserted before the term "stopper". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japan' 713 in view of Japan' 929 and Yasufuky et al. (6,264,506).

Japan' 713 discloses a card connector device comprising: a case 3 having a card slit port 34 capable of inserting thereinto a functional card 4 having a terminal, and accommodating an internal connector for card holding the functional card to be inserted and comprising a terminal to be connected with functional card; an external connector 36 provided protrusively on the case apart from the card slit port and connected electrically with the internal connector as being recited in the claims of the instant application. Japan' 713 lacks a card stopper located as being capable of sliding between the card slit port of the case and the external connector, and comprising a first end at the card slit port side and a second end capable of protruding toward the external connector side; wherein the first end

clutches the functional card when the card stopper moves to the card slit port side to suppress the functional card being pulled out of the card slit port and the second end protrudes in the protrusively provided direction of the connector from the second edge when clutching of the functional card at the card slit port is released.

Japan' 559 discloses the use of card stopper 100 located as being capable of sliding between the card slit port 12a of the case and the external side of the case (see figures 1 and 2), and comprising a first end at the card slit port side and a second end capable of protruding toward an external side.

Yasufuky et al. also discloses that it known to use various slidable card stopper devices for retaining an inserted functional card 100 (see figures 7 and 12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to provide a card stopper located as being capable of sliding between the card slit port of the case and the external connector, and comprising a first end at the card slit port side and a second end capable of protruding toward the external connector side; wherein the first end clutches the functional card when the card stopper moves to the card slit port side to suppress the functional card being pulled out of the card slit port and the second end protrudes in the protrusively provided direction of the connector from the second edge when clutching of the functional card at the card slit port is released for the Japan' 713 card connector device in view of the teachings of Japan' 559 and Yasufuky et al.

The use of a sliding card stopper would provide for more secure retention of the functional card in the slit port of the Japan' 713 card connector device.

Regarding feature of the circuit board being located in the case of the card connector and connected electrically with the card and a connector connected with the circuit board is being disclosed by circuit board 40 of Yasufuky et al. (see figure 5).

Also, regarding the use of a functional card with a notch is well known and is not critical to the retention of the functional card within the card connector.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khiem Nguyen whose telephone number is 571 272-2096. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571 272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Khiem Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839